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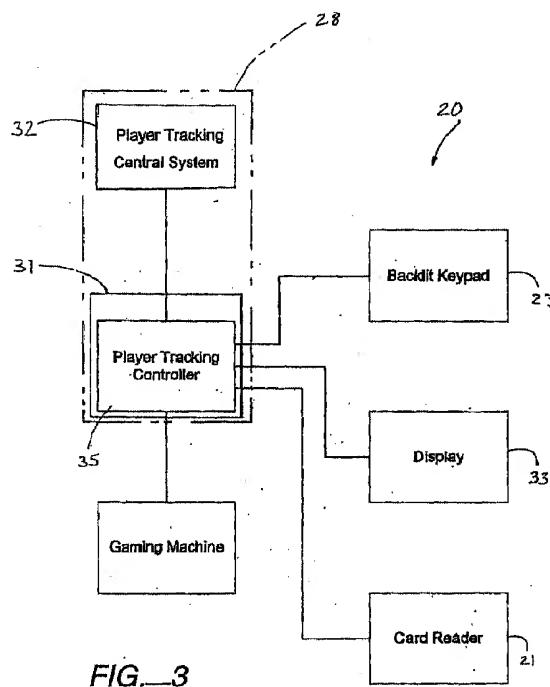
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(54) **A microcontrolled backlit keypad assembly and method for a gaming machine**

(57) A keypad assembly and method for use with a gaming machine including a keypad having a plurality of keys to input data, and a plurality of illumination devices operably coupled to a corresponding key for inde-

pendent illumination thereof. A microcontroller device is coupled to the plurality of illumination devices for illumination thereof in a manner visually communicating information relating to a game accessible by the gaming machine.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	G07F17/32
Y	EP 0 919 965 A (INT GAME TECH) 2 June 1999 (1999-06-02)  * page 5, line 30 - page 6, line 21 * * page 14, line 32 - line 52 * * page 15, line 9 - line 22 * ----	1,2,4,5, 8-11, 14-18, 20,21, 25-28, 33-35,37	G07F17/32
Y	US 5 326 104 A (PEASE LOGAN L ET AL) 5 July 1994 (1994-07-05)  * abstract * * column 10, line 35 - column 11, line 38 * ----	1,2,4,5, 8-11, 14-18, 20,21, 25-28, 33-35,37	
A	* column 10, line 35 - column 11, line 38 * ----	6	
X	US 5 924 926 A (BROWN BRECK J) 20 July 1999 (1999-07-20) * column 4, line 42 - line 57 * * column 7, line 50 - column 8, line 62 * ----	1,2,4,8, 9,14,20	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
THE HAGUE	28 March 2002	Lindholm, A-M	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			
T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 10 0279

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

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